



ORCC Newsletter

Summer 2008 Edition

Editor: Nicole Bedard
orccnewsletter@magma.ca
613-562-2334, ext. 34

Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre
24-Hour Crisis Line:
613-562-2333

Business Line:
613-562-2334

Fax:
613-562-2291

TTY:
613-562-3860

E-mail:
orcc@magma.ca

Web site:
www.orcc.net

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Crisis Line Update	2
Sue Johanson Retires	3
Morgentaler named to Order of Canada	3, 4
Sexual Reassignment in Ontario	4

The Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre

Newsletter

SUMMER 2008

Public Education Update:

SafeCity.ca - ORCC's New Youth Site

Greetings Everyone!

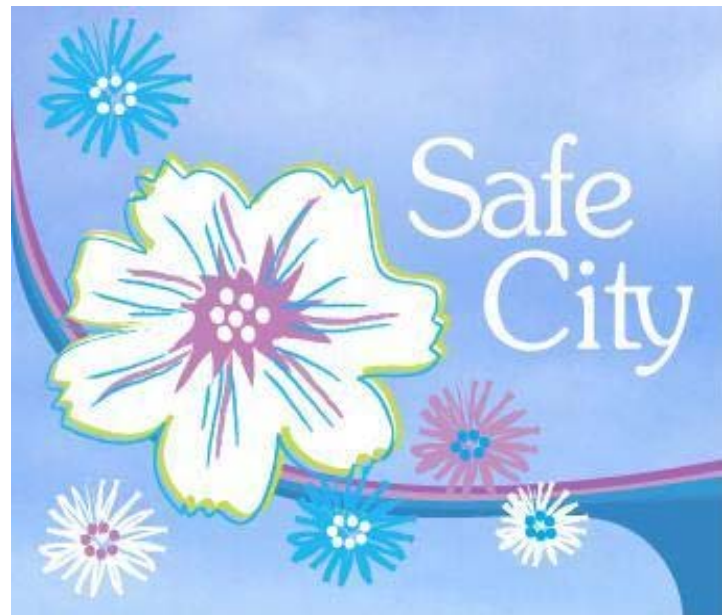
The Public Education Program is busy and growing. **The Youth Website** is up and running and our volunteers are ready to chat with youth online about sexual violence and related issues. The website address is: <http://www.safecity.ca> - check it out!

The **Girls Chat Groups** (Weekly discussion groups for girls organized in five Ottawa High Schools) have closed for summer holidays and will restart again in September 2008.

We just implemented a new project, called: **Kids on the Block Teach About Sexual Abuse and Sexuality**. Volunteers will be trained to educate youth and children about sexual abuse and sexuality. Using very life-like and colourful puppets the volunteers will do presentations in schools and community centres.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We are recruiting volunteers for the **Kids on the Block Teach About Sexual Abuse and Sexuality** - If you are interested in educating youth and children in a fun and creative



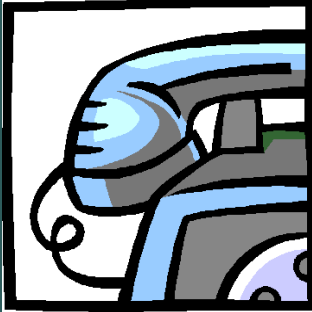
way please call me at: 613-562-2334 Ext: 31 and I will give you more details.

- The next public education volunteer training will be in **August 2008** and the dates will be announced by mid-July.

I wish you a fun-filled and relaxing summer.

*Ikram Jama
Public Education Program
Coordinator*

A Note From the Crisis Line Coordinator



The first half of 2008 was a very busy and fruitful as we saw the team expanding to include new members. Unfortunately, we also lost some of our team.

A fond farewell to: Verbena Ramah, Ritoo Bhandari, Daksha Bhasker, Nancy Hanna, Jen Carter and Debra Soh. The Ottawa Rape Crisis Center thanks you for your support on the crisis line and commitment towards ending violence against women.

As well, please join me in welcoming the following women:

Apiphany Gitana, Carolyn Sharp, Leigh Spanner, Candace Hanna and Mélanie Doucet. Welcome to all of you and I hope you have an enjoyable and educational experience working at the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre. You have joined a dynamic and interesting working group. Please feel free to come to the centre and enjoy the warm and friendly environment.

Annika Vander Kooy, my co-facilitator, and I will be beginning the second summer crisis line training, which began on June 24th and ends on August 26th, 2008. We hope to have a full training and continue to use the

crisis line binder and our community partners as resources for the training. I very much would like to hear from the women who have been part of the training with suggestions on how best to improve the trainings.

As well, if you know of anyone interested in volunteering with us, please send them our way!

Fall training commences on September 9th and ends November 11th, 2008.

Josephine Basudde
Crisis Line Coordinator

24-HOUR
CRISIS LINE
613-562-2333

Crisis Line Volunteering - January to June 2008

	JAN 2008	FEB 2008	MAR 2008	APR 2008	MAY 2008	JUN 2008
Active Volunteers	21	20	21	20	19	18
Volunteers on Leave	5	1	5	6	12	10
New Volunteers	1	3	0	3	1	0
Volunteers who Left	2	4	0	0	0	3
<i>Total Volunteers</i>	27	24	26	29	31	31
<i>Total Volunteer Hours</i>	393	392	352	382	343	294

Crisis Line Calls - January to June 2008

	JAN 2008	FEB 2008	MAR 2008	APR 2008	MAY 2008	JUN 2008
Childhood Sexual Abuse	30	58	44	28	34	18
Adult/Recent Sexual Assault	32	18	15	26	17	17
Sexual Harassment	0	0	2	1	1	1
Combination	25	33	35	40	31	44
Other	36	41	103	63	54	49
Information Request	13	11	4	9	11	8
<i>Total Calls</i>	136	161	202	167	148	137



Sue Johanson Retires Sunday Night TV Show



Sue Johanson, Canada's foremost sexual educator

ades.

Talk Sex began airing in 2002 on the Oxygen network, spun-off from Johanson's famous local TV program, *The Sunday Night Sex Show*—itself originating in 1984 as a radio show running for fourteen years on Q107. The novelty of a grandmotherly figure comfortably using words like "queef" coupled with the educator's wealth of knowledge, insight, and advice was a recipe for success, gaining fans from Oprah Winfrey to David Letterman. The final TV show on Sunday will count down the year's top ten sex toys.

Johanson is an avid lecturer (reaching 47,000 university and college students annually), and despite shutting down the show, she isn't retiring from the speaking circuit. She is also the author of three books and continues to write for the *Toronto Star*. An

early trailblazer for sexual health education, Johanson controversially opened Canada's first high school birth control clinic in 1972 at Don Mills Collegiate Institute. The qualified expert received postdoctorate education at the University of Toronto, the University of Michigan, and the Toronto Institute of Human Relations, and was awarded the Order of Canada in 2001. She has even developed a line of sex toys and counseled prison inmates.

Talk Sex and *The Sunday Night Sex Show* now appear in more than twenty countries around the world, and more than four million Americans tune in to the program every Sunday night. The only request Oxygen made of Johanson for U.S. audiences was not to say "cock ring," as she was wont to do on the Canadian version. American ears are sensitive like that.

http://torontoist.com/2008/05/sue_johanson_re.php

"An early trailblazer for sexual health education, Johanson controversially opened Canada's first high school birth control clinic in 1972 at Don Mills Collegiate Institute."

(Reprinted without permission)

By Marc Lostracco

<http://torontoist.com>

After six successful years on the Oxygen network south of the border, flawless Toronto septuagenarian sexpert Sue Johanson is ending her TV call-in show *Talk Sex*. The show was the most popular late-night draw for the network, receiving 100,000 attempted phone calls per episode, but the 77-year-old registered nurse, lecturer, and sex therapist felt it had become tiresome working the 11 p.m.–1 a.m. time slot for more than three dec-

Morgentaler among those named to Order of Canada

(Reprinted without permission)

<http://www.cbc.ca>

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean has named a leading abortion rights crusader to the Order of Canada, news that has outraged anti-abortion groups. Dr. Henry Morgentaler is one of 75 Canadians to receive honours for their contribution to the country. The Governor General announced the new inductees on Tuesday after the names were recommended by an advisory panel.

Anti-abortion Conservative MPs are stressing that appointments to the order are not made by cabinet. Nine people, including two government appointees, sit on the Order of Canada panel.

MP Maurice Vellacott, a Conservative from Saskatchewan who opposes abortion, told the *Globe and Mail* on Monday that he heard Morgentaler's appointment was not unanimous.

"This is a pretty divisive issue," he said. "I think we can all agree on that, so why would we have the highest honour in the country being issued when there is obviously a strong difference of opinion about it?"

Anti-abortion groups were more direct in their condemnation of the appointment.

The Campaign Life Coalition said it is dreadful that a man who spent his life performing abortions should be hon-

oured. The coalition is urging other Order of Canada recipients to return their medals in protest.

"If Morgentaler had any integrity, he would refuse the medal," Mary Ellen Douglas of the coalition said in a news release. "This presentation should be given to people who have made Canada a better place to live and the elimination of thousands of human beings who would have contributed to the future of Canada is a disgrace, not an honour."

'Hero to millions'

Now 85, Morgentaler, a Polish Holocaust survivor who immigrated to Montreal after the war,

(cont'd on p. 4)



(cont'd from p. 3)

opened his first abortion clinic in 1969 and performed thousands of procedures, which were illegal at the time.

Morgentaler, a trained family

physician, argued that access to abortion was a basic human right and women should not have to risk death at the hands of an untrained professional in order to end their pregnancies.

Morgentaler's clinics were constantly raided, and one in Toronto was firebombed. Morgentaler was arrested several times and spent months in jail as he fought his case at all court levels in Canada.

His victory came on Jan. 28, 1988, when the Supreme Court of Canada struck down Canada's abortion law. That law, which required a woman who wanted an abortion to appeal to a three-doctor hospital abortion committee, was declared unconstitutional.

Feminist and author Judy Rebeck told the *Globe and Mail* on Monday that it is about time Morgentaler is honoured for his long battle.

"Dr. Morgentaler is a hero to millions of women in the country," she said. "He risked his life to struggle for women's rights ... He's a huge figure in Canadian history and the fact that he hasn't got [the Order of Canada] until now is a scandal."

Among the 75 appointments to the Order of Canada are former prime minister Kim Campbell, musician Randy Bachman and CBC News anchor Peter Mansbridge, according to the Governor General's website. They will receive their medals at a later date.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2008/07/01/morgentaler-order.html>

Ontario will resume coverage of sexual reassignment surgery

(Reprinted without permission)

TORONTO — Ontario will soon join other provinces in providing coverage for sex-change surgery under the province's health insurance plan, Health Minister George Smitherman confirmed Thursday.

Smitherman said the details have not been finalized, but Ontario will start paying for sexual reassignment surgery for the first time in 10 years, providing coverage for the limited number of people who qualify for the procedure.

"It's the government's intention to move forward with the provision of services on about the same level as they were (when) cancelled some number of years ago," he said.

"(It would) probably affect between eight and 10 people in Ontario, who after having very, very sustained psychological evaluations would be deemed by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health as appropriate can-

didates to receive a surgical intervention."

Ontario's previous Conservative government cancelled coverage of sex-change operations in 1998, leaving some people stranded midway through the process.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission ruled in 2006 that the province should pay the bill for three people whose sex-change procedures were interrupted by the cancellation, but it did not compel the province to reinstate coverage of the operations.

NDP Leader Howard Hampton said it was about time the Liberal government honoured a long-standing promise to pay for sexual reassignment surgery.

"It's something that the McGuinty government promised, and it's a promise that they need to keep," Hampton said.

The Progressive Conservatives de-

clined to comment on the issue, saying they wanted to wait and hear something more from the government than Smitherman's musings to reporters.

Critics of Ontario's 10-year prohibition of paying for sex-change operations have long maintained it would not cost the province much to cover the procedures, especially since few people would qualify under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

A small private hospital in Montreal, the Centre Metropolitain de Chirurgie Plastique, charges patients \$17,000 for a sex-change operation.

Smitherman said he would have more details about coverage for sex-change operations in a few weeks when he formally announces funding for a range of health-care services in Ontario.

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5g7vDubyG8CdLdCV-r715C10-TQWw>